

**ITE Outstanding Student Chapter Award Entry - ITE York University Student Chapter**

The ITE York University Student Chapter is pleased to submit this entry for the Outstanding Student Chapter Award. While 2020 and the Coronavirus pandemic posed some challenges for club operations, we were still able to host multiple events for our members.

**Chapter Administration**

The ITE York University Student Chapter has 4 elected executive officers, as listed below:

Position	Elected Executive Officer
President	Timothy Young
Vice President	Kathursan Loganathan
Secretary	Samee Saiyed
Treasurer	Ucchas Saha

We are proud to have been able to continue some of our events online, including our popular seminar series. The table below lists our general meetings, which were held virtually over Zoom and Youtube Live after March. To keep the list concise, our monthly executive and director's meetings are not listed.

Event #	Date	Presentations
1	Mar. 5	Undergraduate and Faculty Meet & Greet
2	Mar. 9	Modelling Mobility- How to Forecast Our Future Travel Patterns and Challenges
3	Mar. 11	Finch West Goods Movement Transportation Master Plan
4	Mar. 12	March Seminar: Construction Site Traffic Management
5	May 6	Elections & Awards Ceremony
6	Oct. 13	Seminar Series - Roundabouts 101 - Kittelson & Associates
7	Nov. 3	Seminar Series - Mainstreet Design - City of Toronto, City of Vaughan, & McIntosh Perry
8	Nov. 17	GIS Day (Co-hosted with York University Geomatics Club)
9	Nov. 19	Seminar Series - Autonomous Vehicles - York University, City of Toronto, & Kittelson & Associates

10	Dec. 4	ITE Toronto Section Annual General Meeting
11	Jan. 27	ITE Virtual Road Trip - Canadian Rocky Mountains
12	Feb. 1	Seminar Series - Future of Freight - UofT, Pembina Institute, and Walmart
13	Feb. 2	ITE YorkU Student Chapter Annual General Meeting
14	Feb. 18	Women in Civil Engineering - Abby Morgan, Kittelson & Associates (Co-hosted with Civil Engineers of Lassonde)

One of our more notable and popular events this year was our Autonomous Vehicles virtual seminar, which attracted over 50 viewers during the livestream and continues to be our most popular archived video. In this seminar, we brought in 3 speakers to speak on the same field, but each came from a different background. With representation from Academia, Government, and Consultancy. The resulting discussions held were not just between the presenters and audience, but between each of the presenters as well!

Our annual general meeting was also a notable social event, with participants able to gather and chat using online meeting platform Gather.Town prior to the main presentations. This gave our members a more natural form of online discussion and provided them with great socialization opportunities.

This chapter award application has been submitted as the 2021 Annual Report, in accordance with CITE District instructions. We have also hosted or been involved with several additional events not listed above, which are covered in more detail in the following sections.

### **Networking Events**

Prior to the pandemic, we held an Undergraduate and Faculty Meet & Greet, which allowed our undergraduate members to connect with York University's transportation professors outside of the classroom environment. The move to online did not prevent us from continuing to build networking events; In February 2021 we held a session titled *Career Connect* as part of the ITE International Virtual Student Leadership Summit (SLS). *Career Connect with Kate* is a larger CITE initiative led by Kate Whitfield, which brings together ITE job seekers and professionals to discuss career and networking tips in prerecorded sessions. As part of the SLS, we organized a live session of Career Connect and allowed participants in the audience to direct the conversation to answer their questions regarding networking, leadership, and their future careers.

In January of 2020, we held Industry Night, a networking event in partnership with other civil engineering clubs at York University which brought in companies from transportation, civil engineering, and geomatics to network with students. For 2021, we have moved the event online and will be hosting it on the 20th of March. We expect that we will still be able to provide

networking experiences, albeit virtually, for our members and those working (and hiring) in the transportation industry!

### **Leadership Development**

The ITE York University Student Chapter is honoured to have helped host the ITE International Virtual Student Leadership Summit. This event allowed for collaboration with ITE and other ITE Student Chapters to build an amazing two-day event focusing on leadership development. In addition to the Career Connect session described above, several members from the chapter also joined and participated in a variety of sessions. One of the more notable events at the summit was titled *Stand Up On Your Soapbox*. In this event, attendees were invited to give short presentations and vote for their favourites. Past-President Tanvir Chowdhury and President Tim Young both entered and presented, with Tim tying for first place for his presentation *The best use of Autonomous Cars is for Trains!*

We also foster the development of new leaders through other club activities and operations. One of the more notable events was the CITE Virtual Traffic Bowl competition, in which we appointed an eager member to lead the Traffic Bowl team. The team, led by Team Captain Mohammed Mohammed placed first in the CITE Virtual Traffic Bowl, and went on to represent the Canadian District in the ITE Traffic Bowl Championships.

### **Application of Technical Knowledge**

The members of the chapter are active in the transportation community, with several members sharing their knowledge at events. Past-President Tanvir Chowdhury gave a poster presentation at the Transportation Research Board's Virtual Conference titled Impact of Truck Platooning on Passing Sight Distance of Two-Lane Highways in North America. In partnership with the York Geomatics Club, we co-hosted GIS day, where member Ucchas Saha gave a presentation on his work. Most notably, York University hosted the Smart Freight Centre Virtual Symposium, in which several members including Tanvir Chowdhury, Soha Saiyed, Ubaid Ali, and Ravi Rampura gave presentations relating to their work in freight transportation. Members have also published research for pedestrian health and safety in Safety Science, with Ahmad Mohammadi's article *Developing levels of pedestrian physical distancing during a pandemic*.

### **New Member Recruitment**

To attract potential new members, the chapter has participated in both a Fall and Winter Virtual Fair. These virtual events required that we design virtual booths for prospective participants to see what ITE is and what we do. Our booths were highly ranked for incorporating our club video and live chat, which was able to garner interest from several new students who are now chapter members.

Additionally, we have been posting our seminars online via Youtube for public viewing since September of 2020. This allows us to go beyond our current student membership and reach other viewers such as alumni, members of other chapters, and the general public. Since September, we have grown our youtube membership by more than a factor of 10, gaining 23 new channel subscribers. We are also at the stage at which Youtube's content algorithm is now suggesting our archived seminars to users with similar interests, allowing us to share knowledge and attract interest from around the globe.

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

We are pleased to participate in diversity and inclusion activities, and have held a transportation-focused event in partnership with one of these initiatives. In February, we invited Abby Morgan, one of our previous seminar presenters, to speak at a Women in Science and Engineering Event in partnership with Civil Engineers Lassonde (CSCE). It was enlightening to hear her insights and experiences!

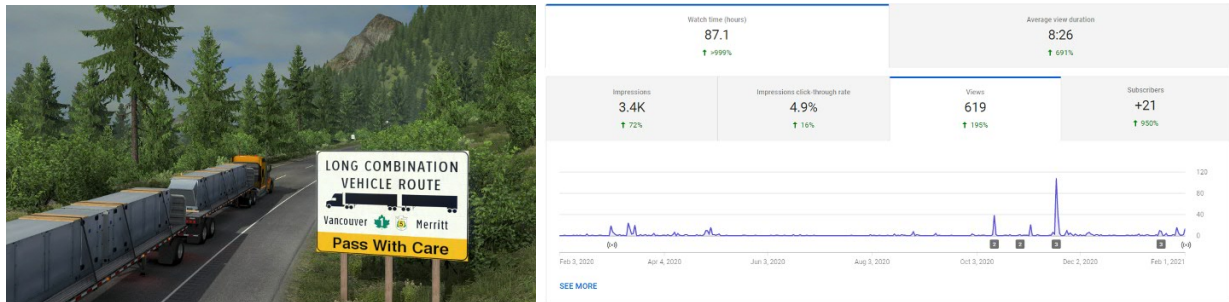
### **Field Trips/Technical Tours**

Although the pandemic has prevented us from running physical field trips and tours, we have provided other means for members to explore the world of transportation. In January, we hosted a virtual road trip in the popular video game *American Truck Simulator*. Members were able to join a discord livestream and voice chat to enjoy the scenery and relax. Members also observed the challenges of maneuvering semi-trucks and Long Combination Vehicles from the driver's perspective, as driven by the chapter president!

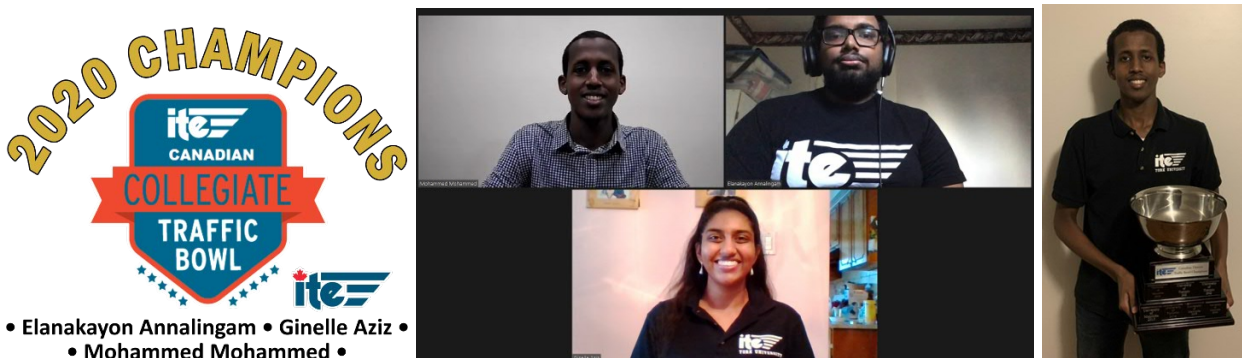
### **Closing Remarks**

While 2020 has been challenging, the ITE York University Student Chapter has risen to the challenge and was able to continue running events. We are hopeful for the resumption of other events including software tutorials, community service, and tours in late 2021/early 2022!

Images - ITE York University Student Chapter



(Left) ITE Virtual Road Trip (Right) ITE YorkU Youtube Channel Growth

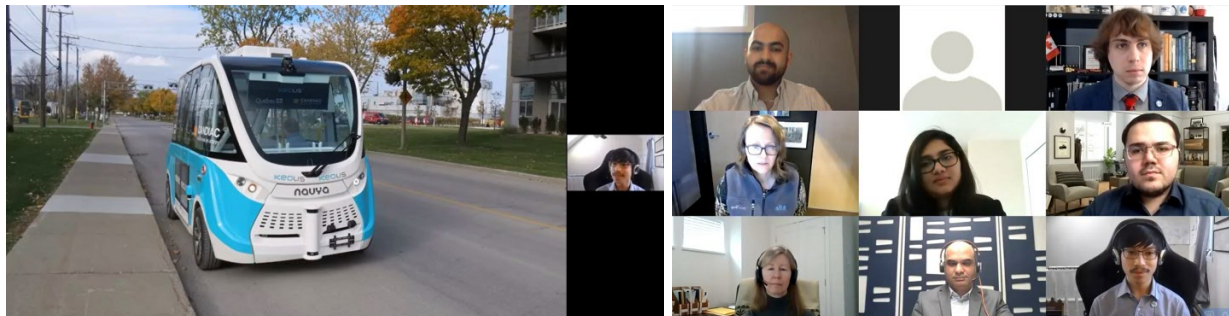


- Elanakayon Annalingam • Ginelle Aziz •
- Mohammed Mohammed •

CITE ITE Traffic Bowl Award and Participants (Clockwise from Top Left) Mohammed Mohammed, Elanakayon Annalingam, Ginelle Aziz



Seminar Series Speakers Sample - (Left) Roundabouts 101. (Right) Autonomous Vehicles.



ITE International Virtual Student Leadership Summit (Left) Tim Young presenting during the Soapbox Speech Competition. (Right) Participants for our summit session *Career Connect*.